

33. The nonwoven fabric as recited in Claim 14, wherein the super microfilaments are non-crimped. -- .

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, claims 1 to 13 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP00/07032 and adds new claims 14 to 33. The new claims, inter alia, conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add any new matter to the application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP00/07032 includes an International Search Report, dated October 18, 2000, a copy of which is included. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were considered by the Examiner in the underlying PCT application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP00/07032 also includes an International Preliminary Examination Report, dated February 16, 2001. An English translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report is included herewith.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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